



## Iraq says army can defend Arabs

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq, on the eve of the fifth anniversary of the invasion of Kuwait, said Tuesday its army had the means to defend itself and other Arab countries.

The army "remains and will remain the largest force of dissuasion and Arab defence," the official Al Jumhouriya newspaper said.

"The Iraqi army has the material means as well as the morale and determination needed to defend Iraq's independence and sovereignty in any circumstances," Al Jumhouriya said.

Iraq reported Monday that it had repaired much of the military equipment which was damaged in the 1991 Gulf War to free Kuwait, seven months after Saddam Hussein's forces invaded it on Aug. 2, 1990.

Iraq has said several times that its army was as powerful as ever.

In January a senior military official said Iraqi troops ranked fourth in the world after those of the United States, Russia and China, but gave no details on the number of troops or equipment it had.

Iraq has an army of 382,000 men supported by 650,000 reservists, 20,000 border guards and 4,800 militiamen, according to figures published by the International Institute of Strategic Studies in London.

Its army is equipped with 2,200 tanks and armoured vehicles, 2,000 troops transporters, 1,500 long-range heavy artillery pieces, and 230 helicopters, according to the institute. It said the air force had six bombers, 130 ground attack aircraft and 180 fighters.

Jane's Intelligence Review said in February that Iraq remained a "potent threat to its neighbours" despite having lost two-thirds of its troop strength and half of its equipment in the Gulf War.

U.N. sanctions have also deprived the army of spare parts, and U.N. disarmament teams have forced it to scrap its weapons of mass destruction.

Five years after it invaded Kuwait and was punished with crippling economic sanctions, Iraq is threatening a showdown unless the embargo is lifted.

It has given the U.N. disarmament commission until the end of August to finish its work and then recommend in September a lifting of the sanctions or face a withdrawal of Baghdad's cooperation.

The Iraqi government has warned its people to be prepared for "showdown" while announcing it has repaired tanks, artillery and helicopters which were damaged in

the 1991 Gulf War, when a U.S.-led coalition drove it out of Kuwait.

Jane's said in February that Iraq has given priority to rebuilding the elite Republican Guards after it lost as much as three-quarters of its troop strength and half its equipment during the war for Kuwait.

Iraq sent two Republican Guard divisions toward Kuwait last October in what many feared would be a repeat of the 1990 invasion, but withdrew after Washington sent warplanes, ships and thousands of troops in the region.

Since the Jane's report came out, Iraq has announced a campaign to repair more damaged military equipment and, reported Monday that had repaired more than 1,000 items.

Besides the U.S.-led offensive to liberate Kuwait, the Iraqi military had also been weakened by the sanctions which deprive it of spare parts and by U.N. teams which have disarmed it of weapons of mass destruction.

Roll Ekeus, the head of the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) to disarm Iraq, said Baghdad had little choice but to cooperate with the United Nations when Iraqi officials first started threatening to withhold cooperation in June.

UNSCOM chairman is due in Baghdad Friday to determine whether Iraq has fulfilled a promise to provide a full and final report on its germ warfare programme. He wants Baghdad to account for 17 tonnes of growth media which could be used to make botulinum and anthrax.

Mr. Ekeus said the germ warfare issue was the sole main obstacle to a lifting of the sanctions. U.N. resolutions ending the Gulf War require a lifting of the oil embargo once Iraq has eliminated all its weapons of mass destruction.

But Mr. Ekeus has also said the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council — the United States, Britain, France, Russia and China — will have the final word on the sanctions.

The United States — supported by Britain — has taken a hard line, urging Iraq to comply not only with weapons resolutions but also release Kuwaiti prisoners and respect human rights before the embargo is lifted.

Iraqi opposition members said Saddam was trying to improve his human rights image in hopes of a lifting of the sanctions when he declared a general amnesty for his opponents Sunday. It was the second amnesty in 10 days.

## Iran stops critical weekly

NICOSIA (R) — Iranian authorities have stopped the publication of a radical Islamic weekly known for exposing corruption in high places, a member of the magazine's staff said.

"We have only received a copy of a fax sent by the authorities to our printing house telling them not to print our paper," a member of the staff of Payam-E-Daneshjoo (Student's Message), who did not give his name, told Reuters by telephone from Tehran.

The fax said the decision was taken by the Press Review Board because of unspecified "press violations," he added.

"We have not heard anything official yet, but I think

they have stopped us for good this time and for the same reason as four months ago," he said.

He was referring to a court ordering police in April to seize an issue of the paper for carrying accusations of corruption against the head of Iran's largest economic conglomerate.

Payam-E-Daneshjoo has published a series of articles suggesting that Mohsen Rafiqdoust, the head of the Bonyad-E Mostazafan Va Janbazan (Foundation for the Deprived and War Disabled) may have been involved in a big bank fraud.

Mr. Rafiqdoust has denied involvement in the case in which his brother is a defendant.



NEW BORDER CROSSING: Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller, Turkish President Suleyman Demirel and Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze (from left to right) wave to the public during a ceremony for a newly opened border-crossing between Turkey and Georgia (AFP photo)

## Eritrea tries the path of self-reliance

MASSAWA, Eritrea (AP) — A tiny, antique diesel locomotive slows and passengers clamber aboard the wooden benches of two weathered, open-air cars.

Eritrea's railway looks like a toy and doesn't yet go as far as a marathon can run in a few hours.

But to Eritreans, the narrow gauge railway is as big a deal as the transcontinental railroad was to Americans. For a country scarred by 30 years of war, it is a symbol in cold steel of freedom, resolve and self-reliance.

Since winning independence from Ethiopia in 1991, Eritreans have turned their energies inward to build self-sufficiency, rejecting any outside help that does not move them toward that goal.

It is a daring strategy for Africa's newest nation. Average annual income in Eritrea is less than \$10 a person, and two-thirds of its people need food aid. But by using donated food to pay people to build the railroad and other projects, the government is trying to end reliance on foreign help as fast as it can.

"We have the capacity for self-sufficiency," President Isaias Afewerki said in an interview. "We don't believe aid can solve our problems."

On his desk is a photograph of Eritrea's tiny railroad.

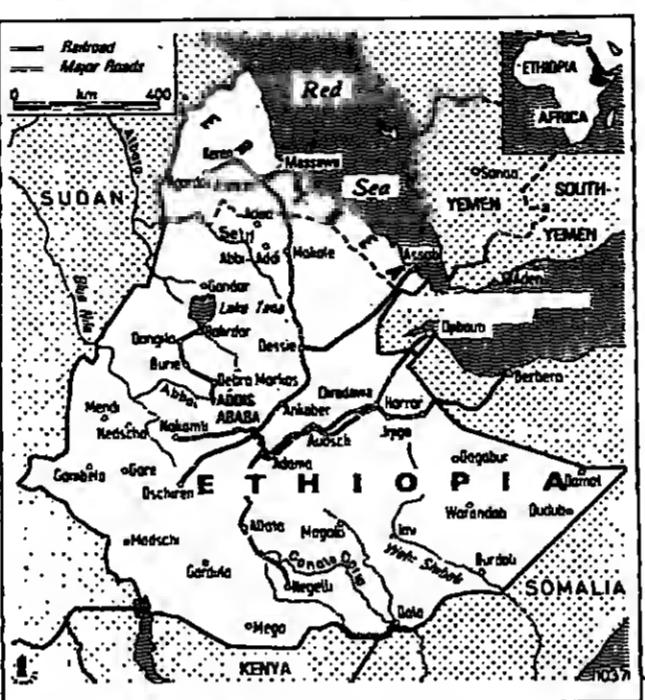
Italian engineers estimated it would cost at least \$500 million to carve a railroad through the barren mountains between the capital, Asmara, and Massawa, a port on the Red Sea.

Eritrea could not afford that, and was determined not to join the beggar nations whose futures are mortgaged to aid and loans and forced to survive on more charity.

So Eritreans decided to rebuild their railroad with their own labour and scavenged parts.

First built by Italians, the railroad stopped running in 1974. Its rails were cannibalised for other uses during the long war to break away from Ethiopia.

Today, hundreds of workers armed with picks and shovels have ex-



tended the railroad 30 kilometres (19 miles) inland from Massawa. They collect rails from around their own gravel for roadbeds.

The government cannot provide a precise figure on what the railroad has cost so far because of the nature of the project.

But it says it has used about 30 per cent of foreign food aid to pay for such food-for-work projects, and hopes to increase that to 50 per cent or even 60 per cent this year.

For now, the train carries passengers about 4 kilometres (2 1/2 miles) from the outskirts of Massawa to the port. Tickets cost .25 birr (about 4 cents). The builders expect to complete the next 75 kilometres (47 miles) to Asmara in 18 months.

"I'll bet this railway can go another 300 kilometres (188 miles) without any foreign experts," said Dr. Nerayo Teklemichael, director of the Eritrean Relief and Rehabilitation Agency. "Many people have a strong attachment to this railroad."

Eritrea is following a new road on the world's poorest continent, a direction deemed too rugged by many African neighbours.

"Handouts have brought nothing to Africa but disaster," said Saleh Meky, the U.S.-educated

minister of marine resources.

Eritrea shuns aid and development projects that it believes will not help make its 3 million people self-reliant.

"Farming supports 80 per cent of the population, accounts for 50 per cent of the economy and 70 per cent of exports.

But only about one-quarter of the country is suitable for farming, and just 10 per cent of that land is cultivated.

So the former rebel leaders who run Eritrea are using food aid to pay people to build dams, repair roads and terrace barren mountainsides.

"The effective use of aid is to free society from any dependence on outside sources," said Mr. Isaia. "If aid is sustainable, then life is not sustainable."

Every summer, all of Eritrea's thousands of high school students are required to spend two months planting trees or terrace mountainsides. In exchange, they get food and pocket money.

Mr. Saleh's Ministry of Marine Resources is once again exploiting Eritrea's fishing areas, virtually untouched during the war, to feed the people and earn badly needed foreign exchange.

Ministry trucks travel

from neighbourhood to neighbourhood selling fish in an attempt to change the diet of Eritreans and reduce food imports.

Mr. Saleh's ministry has accepted only aid that will help determine the sustainable fish catch from its waters, build processing plants and make ice for fishing boats.

Alongside a pier in Massawa, Eritreans are painstakingly building new boats and repairing their old brightly coloured fishing dhows.

"We have done many things ourselves," said Nerayo. "During the war, we used to put American spare parts on Russian cars. We called them vodka cars."

Eritrea's long war for independence hammered home the lesson of self-reliance. Without outside help, the Eritreans fought Africa's largest army, a military machine driven by \$7 billion in Soviet aid.

Eritreans carved factories into mountainsides to make weapons and medicines. They learned to repair damaged and abandoned tanks. They even used rails from the railway to which they are now rebuilding to rebuild bunkers.

"Even in the darkest moments, we really believed we had to be self-reliant," said Nerayo, a surgeon on the front lines during the war.

On a continent often divided along ethnic lines, the war also brought unity to this country of nine ethnic groups, each with its own language, and to a population almost evenly divided between Christians and Muslims.

Mr. Isaia says Eritrea is drafting a constitution that will bring multi-party elections in 1997 and guarantee social justice and freedom of expression and religion.

The president accuses the radical Islamic regime in Sudan, the giant neighbour to the west, of trying to export its revolution to Eritrea. He says that is doomed to fail.

"There are dissatisfied people here. But they are not being recruited by radical Muslim groups," Mr. Isaia said. "Islam and Christianity have lived here together for 1,000 years."

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Hundreds evacuated from Sudan

KHARTOUM (R) — Hundreds of people have been evacuated after a rain-heavy river burst its banks and destroyed 50 houses in eastern Sudan, the official Sudanese News Agency (SUNA) reported Tuesday. SUNA said the Gash River had submerged several residential parts of Massala town, near the border with Eritrea. About 450 families were evacuated to safer areas after water surrounded their houses. The level of the river at the nearby Ramla residential area reached one metre. The authorities in Massala have mobilised civilians and security forces to erect embankments around the river to prevent further flooding. SUNA said. Heavy rain has hit many parts of Sudan in recent weeks, including the capital Khartoum. Earlier this year, the capital suffered long power cuts because of lack of rain. But the government newspaper Al Khartoum Al Watani (National Salvation) said Tuesday Khartoum residents were now going without power for up to six hours a day because of too much rain.

### 3 die in Beirut apartment collapse

BEIRUT (AFP) — Three Syrian construction workers were killed and seven others were injured Monday when an apartment block collapsed in Beirut's old downtown, Lebanese police said. The workers were tearing down a building as part of reconstruction of Lebanon's shattered capital after the 1975-90 civil war, the police said. It was the second such incident in less than two months: five Syrian workers died and 12 others were injured when part of the Hotel Coral Beach collapsed in Beirut on June 9. More than 500,000 Syrians, mostly agricultural and construction workers, are believed to be living in Lebanon.

### Afghan refugees plucked from the sea

OSLO (R) — A Norwegian freighter plucked 71 Afghan refugees from four rubber rafts found floating in the Baltic Sea early Tuesday, officials said. The refugees — men, women and children — were discovered at about 1 a.m. (2300 GMT) northeast of the German island of Ruegen in the southern part of the Baltic Sea. Danish Sea Rescue officials were quoted as saying by Norway's NTS news agency. Brunnboern Bu, skipper of the Norwegian freighter Dana Baltica, told Norwegian radio the refugees appeared to have been at sea for some time but would not speak about their ordeal. "Some of them are pretty exhausted," he said. "I presume they have been travelling far to get here." The Danish officials said it was not known who was responsible for putting the refugees in the rafts, NTB said. They identified the refugees as Afghan, NTB said. Ingvar Havnen, spokesman for the Norwegian Foreign Ministry, said: "What is important now is that their status is clarified." "If they claim to be political refugees then this issue has to be taken up with the U.N. High Commission for Refugees," Mr. Havnen told Norwegian radio.

### Algerian arrested in Germany

BONN (AP) — Authorities have arrested an Algerian militant for smuggling automatic rifles to Islamic militants in his homeland, the federal prosecutor said Tuesday. The 29-year-old Algerian, identified as Naser Edine H., was arrested on July 28 in Leipzig, in eastern Germany. He was being held on suspicion of violating weapons laws. The man had been purchasing souvenir Kalashnikov rifles in Hungary, refitting them to full automatic and delivering the guns to sources in France who smuggled them over Morocco to Algeria for the Islamic Salvation Front, prosecutor Rolf Hannich said. More than 30,000 people have died in political murders and fighting between the Islamic extremists and Algerian troops since the army in 1992 cancelled legislative elections the fundamentalists appeared set to win.

### Turkish farmer jailed for 'insulting God'

ANKARA (AFP) — In a twist of events spread out over two years, a farmer in central Turkey got a six-month jail sentence for "insulting God," official sources said Tuesday. In 1993, a civil court accused a farmer in the town of Eregli, near Konya, of blaspheming God in a fight with friends. It condemned him to six months in jail, and the equivalent of a \$3.5 fine. An appeals court overturned the sentence, but its ruling was recently cancelled by a higher appeals court, reconfirming the farmer's original punishment.

### Locust threaten crops in Sudan

KHARTOUM (R) — Swarms of desert locusts have appeared in the agricultural provinces of western Sudan and could threaten crops there, a Sudanese newspaper reported Tuesday. Al Rai Al Akhir paper said locusts had been seen in the provinces of Sodari, in northern Kordofan state and in Darfur. They had appeared on the borders with Chad and swarms had also been seen flying westwards over Khartoum, it added.

### 2 bombs explode in Istanbul

ISTANBUL (AP) — Two bombs exploded in a shopping centre and at a bank teller causing damage to buildings, Anatolia News Agency said. No injuries were reported. One bomb went off in a shopping centre on the downtown business districts of Taksim late evening, shattering windows of nearby stores, Anatolia said. Unknown assailants hurled a bomb at a Yapi Kredi Bank teller in the business district of Aksaray causing damage to buildings in the area, the agency said. Bank tellers have been the target of bomb attacks over the last three weeks. About 14 banks have suffered attacks this month. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attacks, but various terrorist groups, including Kurdish separatists, leftist extremists and Muslim militants, have been active for years in this city of 12 million people.

### HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman ... 6:02 p.m. every Monday  
Arr. Amman ... 9:00 p.m. every Monday  
Dep. Amman ... 6:00 a.m. every Sunday  
Arr. Amman ... 7:30 a.m. every Sunday

### MARKET PRICES

Apple	710/500
Banana	600
Banana (Mukmar)	620
Cabbage	120/100
Carrot	220/120
Cauliflower	280/180
Cucumbers (large)	150/100
Cucumbers (small)	280/180
Dubai, Mince (RJ)	180/100
Dubai, Mince (JY)	180/100
Garlic	600/500</td



## Sri Lanka's Jaffna peninsula appeals urgently for food

COLOMBO (Agencies) — Sri Lanka's government agent for the embattled Northern Jaffna peninsula has said there was a "total depletion" of food for civilians and made an urgent appeal to Colombo for supplies to ensure their survival.

His appeal, made in a letter seen by Reuters on Tuesday, called for "very urgent arrangements for the regular supply of food, medicine and other essential items with ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross) escort as to the past."

The ICRC says it has been forced to suspend escorting government ships running supplies to the north until guarantees of security from both sides in the conflict are clarified.

In a July 27 letter to President Chandrika Kumaratunga, Jaffna's government agent K. Ponnampalam said: "Under the existing grave situation related to 222,000 families and with total depletion of food and essential items, providing the very basic needs to the population is causing me increasing alarm and insecurity."

He also appealed to the government for "stabilised security" for the duration of school examinations which started Monday.

The letter was also sent to army chief General Gerry De Silva and Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Minister M.H.M. Asraff.

The armed forces last month launched Operation Leap Forward against the Liberation of Tigers of Tamil

Eelam (LTTE) on the Jaffna peninsula. The government says more than 50,000 people have been killed in the ethnic war since it started in 1983.

Tens of thousands of people fled the offensive.

In a five-page report, Mr. Ponnampalam also said the civilian death toll from the bombing of the St. Peter's Church Welfare Centre at Navalai was 112 and the total number of civilian deaths since the launch of the offensive was 234. He said 1,414 people had been wounded.

The church complex bombing, on the first day of Operation Leap Forward on July 9, has been the most controversial incident of the offensive.

Tamil rebels and the ICRC say it was bombed by the air force. The military says it does not know who was responsible for the attack but is investigating.

The agent said there were 80,902 displaced families and 36,949 families had returned to their homes.

He called for the resumption of monthly supplies of 9,000 tonnes of food and essential supplies with ICRC escort. He also said 3,500 metric tonnes of fertilisers were badly needed, as was money to pay compensation to families of the dead and to the wounded.

It was not immediately clear how the figure of 220,000 families facing a "grave situation" was calculated.

An ICRC spokesperson Tuesday said the suspension of escorts for food ships was

expected to be lifted soon once the security situation had been clarified.

The Sri Lankan army Tuesday began a fresh recruitment drive to beef up troops battling Tamil Tiger guerrillas in the northeast, military officials here said.

"We are having a good response so far. We must have more men if we are to defend the country from terrorists," a senior army officer said, referring to the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil

Eelam.

However, he declined to say how many would be recruited or how many responded to advertisements inviting applications.

Military sources said the recruitment was aimed at filling up vacancies following the desertion of some 25,000 soldiers in the past 15 years. The army's current strength is put at 100,000 men.

The Tamil Tigers have launched a fresh fund-raising campaign and promised to turn their Jaffna stronghold into a graveyard for Sri Lankan troops, a rebel paper and Tamil sources said Tuesday.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam told Tamil civilians they were seeking 1,000 million rupees (\$20 million) to boost their war effort against security forces, the sources here said.

The LTTE said it wanted to buy more surface-to-air missiles (SAMs) as a defence against aerial bombardments. Tigers have already downed two transport planes and a ground attack aircraft since firing the first missile in

April. They argue that the government increased a defence levy recently but there is no such tax imposed by the LTTE on Tamils in Jaffna," a Tamil source said. "Now they want Jaffna civilians to make contributions."

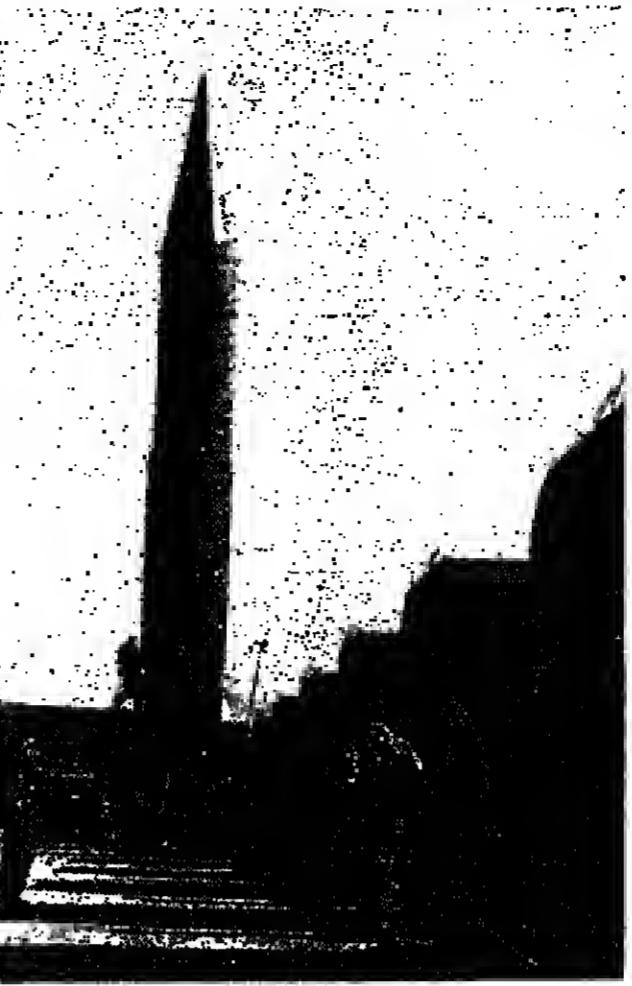
He said the LTTE always collected large amounts of money from Tamils abroad but now the campaign has been stepped up following the group's pull out of a truce in April and the escalation of fighting in what is called Eelam War III.

Tigers have been leading a protracted campaign for independence and all previous political and military attempts to resolve the conflict have ended in failure. More than 50,000 people have died in fighting since 1972.

The Tigers have also promised a blood bath if security forces launch another offensive against Jaffna, the symbol of Tamil separatism and the capital of a de facto state run by the guerrillas over the past five years.

The latest issue of the LTTE's official paper, the Inside Report, received her Monday said that the army was gearing up for another offensive against Jaffna but warned that the guerrillas were prepared to meet the threat.

"Jaffna will turn out to be the graveyard of Sinhalese soldiers if they launch another offensive and attempt to capture territory. We will fight for every inch of land and create hell for the enemy."



The People's Liberation Army Second Artillery troops drill in missile launching procedure in this photo released by China News Service under condition that the location was not revealed. China issued another stern warning on using military force against Taiwan, with Defence Minister Chi Haotian vowing the army would "not sit idle" if the island moved towards independence (AFP photo)

## Chinese military calls for obedience to Jiang

BEIJING (Agencies) — General Lio Huaging, China's most senior military leader, Tuesday ordered the People's Liberation Army (PLA) to support Deng Xiaoping's designated heir, President Jiang Zemin.

"Our army should be guided by the thought of Comrade Deng Xiaoping and act according to the directives of Chairman Jiang Zemin," Gen. Lio wrote in a long article in the official People's Daily.

Liu is vice chairman of the powerful Central Military Commission, which Mr. Jiang, who is also Communist Party secretary general, heads. His article also appeared Tuesday in the party weekly, *Outlook*.

"Our army must also apply the military strategy and principles of the new period," the general wrote. The term "new period" refers to the transition between the ailing Deng and Jiang.

"We must resolutely respect the fundamental principle of the party's leadership of the army, absolutely defend the central authority led by Comrade Jiang Zemin, and obey the party and the state," he added.

Mr. Jiang would need the support of the PLA to remain in power for long, and has multiplied calls since the start of the year for the army to follow the party line.

The general also backed

Defence Minister Chi Haotian's attack Taiwan. On Monday, the minister reaffirmed that the PLA would not stand by if the nationalist island unilaterally declared independence or "foreign interference."

China has viewed Taiwan as a rebellious province since anti-Communist leaders fled there in 1949 at the end of the Chinese civil war.

Arch. Tutu, on the final day of a visit to Rwanda, endorsed calls for justice made by the Rwandan government which took power in July last year.

Many of the suspected killers now live freely in exile.

"There must be justice, that those who are found guilty of having perpetrated these atrocities or instigated other to do so must indeed be brought to justice and their impunity should be ended."

"But we want to say that... justice cannot be the last word."

Arch. Tutu toured Kigali

Prison Sunday and was

cheered by thousands of inmates accused of being killers.

The jail is so overcrowded that many prisoners have to sit shoulder-to-shoulder much of the time.

"We must say the conditions are a disaster waiting to happen. We hope the international community can help to ease their situation," Arch. Tutu said in his address Monday.

"But we are scared that resentment will build up on the part of one group looking for the opportunity to get its own back..."

Students belonging to the Nepal Vidharti Sangh (Nepal Students Union) held demonstrations in Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Baktapur urging people to close shops and keep vehicles off the streets, witnesses said.

The student union called the general strike to denounce the dissolution of the House of Representatives on June 13, four and a half years before its term was to end, a student union spokesman said.

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The student union called the general strike to denounce the dissolution of the House of Representatives on June 1





The conflict over Bosnia is a symptom of something far deeper, writer Vincent Cable

## Europe and the U.S.: the wider rift is growing

THE LIFTING by the U.S. Congress of the Bosnian arms embargo opens up a major division between the Western allies. It prompts the question: is this a disagreement over a specific and localised, albeit harrowing, tragic, problem or is there a more fundamental disorder?

It may seem odd to pose the wider question. On the surface, the core of the Western world — the Atlantic alliance of the U.S. and Western Europe — has never been stronger. It won the cold war (and the Gulf war). The West dominates global political and economic institutions. Applicants are queuing to join Western clubs: NATO, the EU, the G-7, the OECD. Democratic capitalism is largely challenged as a preferred system of political and economic organisation. There is no major, coherent security threat in sight.

The fact that the West is important to influence the Balkan war is not in itself surprising. NATO (let alone EU) structures were not designed with complex ethnic conflicts and local warlords in mind. What is surprising is that close allies in a disciplined and successful alliance should have allowed themselves to be split asunder.

While much abuse has been heaped on the hapless U.N., the main failure has been the inability of the Western allies and objectives. The U.S. and the Europeans have in effect taken different sides. The Europeans, by trying to stabilise the territorial status quo, has, however unintentionally, given legitimacy to the Serb conquests

and now carry some moral and political responsibility for the terrible consequences of leaving the Muslim population both unprotected and outgunned.

By contrast, the U.S., which has done little, is emerging as the Muslims' champion, the result of instinctive emotional support allied to a shrewd appreciation of Islamic sensitivities.

Now that the U.S. is lifting the arms embargo to level up the killing fields, the war may turn and polarise Western opinion even more.

The last time Britain, in alliance with France, became so detached from the U.S. was at Suez. But, unlike at Suez, there is no longer a deeper relationship to fall back on. The U.S. commitment to Europe, enshrined in Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty and in a military presence, has become an expensive chore. The security subsidy to Europe costs perhaps \$50 billion a year. The reasons for keeping over 100,000 troops in Europe (roughly the threshold below which the presence lacks real credibility) are decreasingly obvious to many Americans. The Soviet threat has disappeared and it requires unusual paranoia to see comparable threats to Western Europe is that, at a certain point, the residual U.S. security guarantee no longer holds.

Meanwhile, other disagreements are opening up. In the Middle East the U.S. is pursuing a "dual containment" strategy against both Iraq and Iran. Whether this is wise is debatable — but what matters more is the inability of the new World Trade Organisation framework to be forcing open Asian markets. The Europeans have found themselves in the unaccustomed position of being virtuous guardians of the multilateral system, even to the extent of supporting Japan. The argument runs deeper

West to agree and maintain a consistent position. The strategy is being undermined by France in Iraq and general European disarray for the Iran boycott. The fact that disagreement is expressed through an opportunistic pursuit of contracts — by Total in Iran, for example, allegedly supported by the French government — adds, in U.S. eyes, economic injury to political insult.

The idea that Western capitalism could be undermined by trade and competition for markets is a very old one and seemed to be as dead as Lenin, who promoted it. And at first sight, the risk of trade warfare between the Western allies does appear remote.

There has just been a ground-breaking set of liberalising agreements under the Uruguay Round

which create discipline for an increasingly globalised system.

Yet the new World Trade Organisation framework is in serious trouble even before it has been properly established.

The problem is not, or not yet, about traditionally divisive issues such as agriculture. Rather it is over the whole principle of multilateralism: whether global disciplines should prevail over national, unilateral action.

Specifically, the U.S. is insisting on the right to an aggressive, unilateral approach to forcing open Asian markets. The Europeans have found themselves in the unaccustomed position of being virtuous guardians of the multilateral system, even to the extent of supporting Japan. The argument runs deeper

than trade tactics. Some of the luminaries of the U.S. administration and in Congress explicitly describe their relations with Western Europe and Japan as akin to an economic war.

Such attitudes can become contagious. There is already a barely suppressed conflict resulting from competition between Western governments to help their firms win big infrastructure projects which threatens to destroy carefully crafted agreements to stop subsidy warfare.

It could be said in a response that there is nothing new to all of this. There have long been disagreements among the Western allies. France has always been a loose, nationalist, cannon. Trade frictions have been endemic in the post-war system but haven't stopped the

process of integration. Yet serious policy-makers on both sides of the Atlantic are now clearly alarmed.

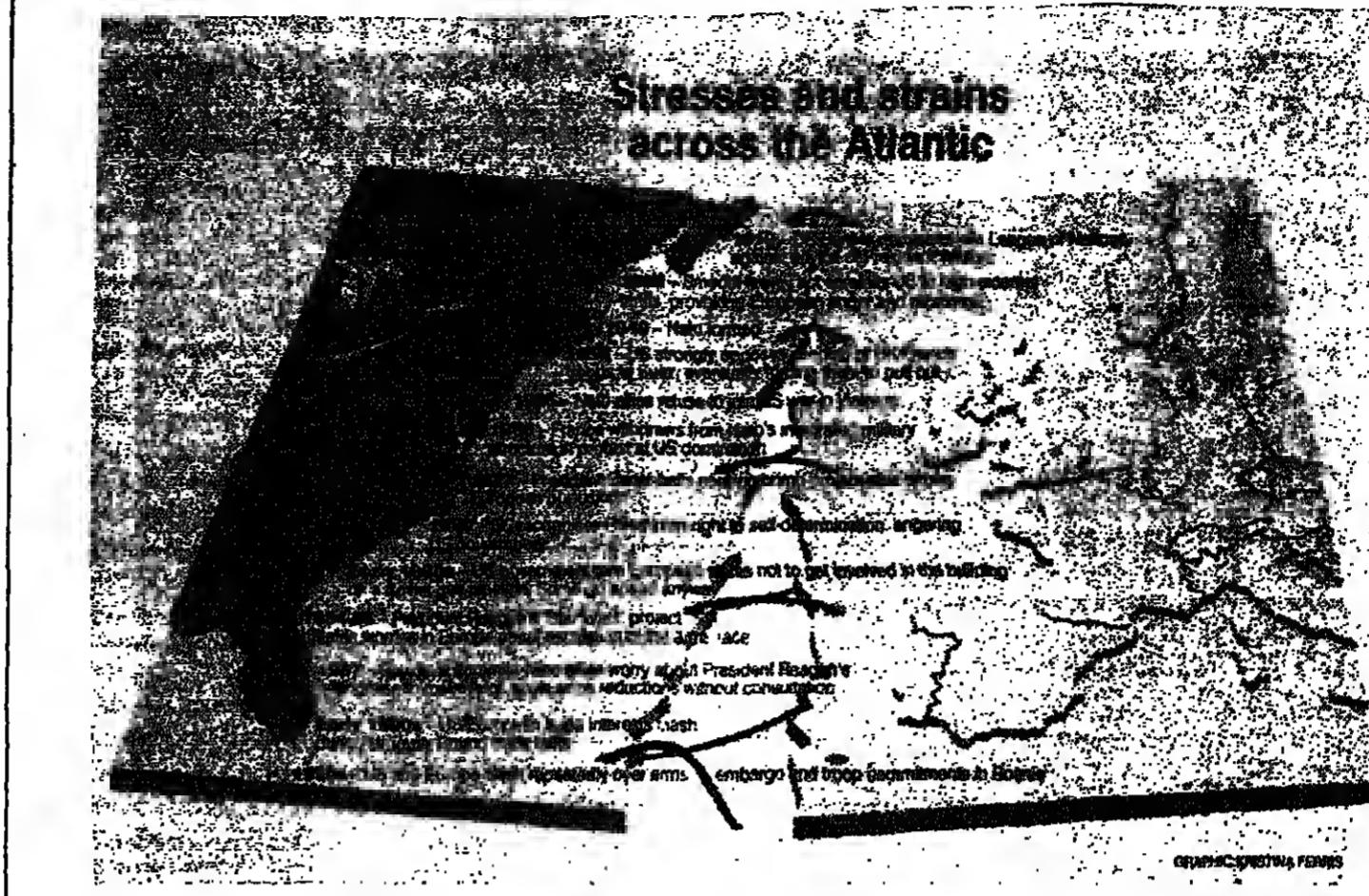
There is a particular danger for Britain. For more than a generation, Britain's external identity has been defined as both European and transatlantic. If the Western alliance fragments, that will no longer be possible.

A large and influential segment of opinion would opt for a deeper involvement with Europe, another, particularly on the political right, would be more at home with the Anglo-Saxon world.

The tensions such a divide could create have been demonstrated already in the distinctive debate over Europe. They would be multiplied many times once it sank in that the old transatlantic ties had snapped.

There are two interpreta-

### Stresses and strains across the Atlantic



OPINION-GRAPHICS PAGES

ure, campaigning by Irish, Cuban and Polish Americans, and lobbying by car companies, Hollywood, and human rights' groups. They dream of a strategic visionary (even a George Bush).

The problem with this argument is its patrician assumptions. International relations are no longer the preserve of foreign policy elites engaged in high diplomacy. And not only in the U.S.: Germany's current immobilism (and past unhelpful moves such as the premature recognition of Croatia) derives from strong domestic public opinion. Changes in personalities would make little difference.

The end result is that Western leaders are trapped between ever more demanding international

obligations and increasingly demanding domestic constituencies. Voters want to "do something" about overseas conflicts without putting their own troops at risk. They support the broad abstractions of international economic cooperation while opting out of specific obligations. Unless a more austere, disciplined and self-sacrificing approach can be sold to Western public opinion, the strategic and economic underpinnings of the West will unravel much as they have in the former East. The process is already beginning.

The writer is head of the International Economics Programme at the Royal Institute of International Affairs. The article is reprinted from the *Independent*.

## Former U.S. president shuttles to African capitals seeking peace

By Eileen Alt Powell  
The Associated Press

KHARTOUM — Jimmy Carter leans back in his seat aboard a borrowed U.N. plane high over Sudan and ticks off a list of perceived world rogues — North Korea, the Bosnian Serbs, the government in Khartoum, Cuban leader Fidel Castro, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

"The United States has a disturbing inclination to deal with controversy in a black and white way," Mr. Carter says. "We and our allies are right and are angels, the other side is totally wrong and devils."

Mr. Carter is looking for the grays, the ways in which a former U.S. president and a devout Christian imbued with a sense of duty can intervene to resolve the world's conflicts. His latest mission, which ended Sunday, took him to Sudan, where an intractable civil war has taken the lives

of more than 1.3 million people in the last 12 years.

The West has all but abandoned the place, eliminating most aid to the Islamic government in Khartoum and providing the harshest of assistance to the insurgent south.

Mr. Carter in March won a four-month ceasefire in the conflict, a breathing space to get health programmes restarted to eradicate debilitating guinea worm disease and river blindness and vaccinate

children. He had the same message: "These four months (of ceasefire) have been wonderful, and I thank God for it. But we need a permanent peace."

In the southern Sudanese town of Juba, health official Helen Oler Itarum urged him on. "If no peace, then an endless ceasefire," she pleaded.

As president, Mr. Carter honed his negotiating skills in brokering the 1978 Camp David accords between Egypt and Israel that produced the Middle East's first peace treaty.

Although he briefs the Clinton administration about his activities, he does not act as an official government envoy. In fact, there are some in Washington who worry his actions inter-

fer with American policy and make the White House appear ineffective in its foreign policy.

Mr. Carter feels differently. "When you have people suffering intensely because of a deadlock... they (the U.S. government) should on occasion turn to a person like me who has access to both sides."

He has used that access to bring North Korea to the negotiating table and help pacify Haiti. He also won a short-lived ceasefire in Bosnia, but both the Bosnian government and the White House accused him of not knowing enough about the complicated situation.

He says his style is to put the onus squarely on the shoulders of the belligerents. At the start of his tour in Khartoum, he told Mr. Al Bashir: "You can make my trip a very wonderful trip. Or you can make it a disappointment."

Mr. Carter still travels with secret service protection, and had at least a half-dozen security officers with him in Africa.

On plane rides, he sits with his wife Rosalynn, and sometimes kicks off his penny loafers and puts his feet up to nap through long hauls. His son, Chip, 45, an international business consultant, also was along on this trip.

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### Talks going in circles

(Continued from page 1) resources and voting locations for east Jerusalem's 160,000 Palestinians.

Israel's deputy army chief of staff, Matan Vilnai, told a parliamentary committee on Tuesday his troops could complete redeployment by April 1994. But army officials said the statements were made on a purely technical basis.

Palestinian negotiators say that Israel, which had earlier agreed to hand over control of West Bank villages to Palestinian police, now insists on maintaining "over-riding" responsibility for security in these areas.

Palestinians also want Israel to pull out of Hebron, home to 100,000 Arabs and some 100 Jewish settlers.

Meanwhile, Mr. Rabin has postponed a cabinet meeting intended to ratify the transfer of civil powers to the PLO in the West Bank, his spokeswoman said Tuesday.

Maj. Gen. Vilnai said troops withdrawn from Arab towns would be relocated to bases in the West Bank. The debate, which was

### Hamas

(Continued from page 1)

the Israeli authorities, we would consider this a hostile act against all Arabs and Muslims. You will bear the consequences of such an act.

"We demand the immediate release of Abu Marzouk. Otherwise the United States is putting itself in open confrontation with the Arab and Islamic peoples."

A leaflet given to the Associated Press on Tuesday claimed that a bus bombing that killed six Israelis last week was carried out by Hamas.

The authenticity of the claim could not immediately be confirmed.

Phone calls to the AP and other media organisations on June 24, the day of the Tel Aviv bombing that killed six Israelis, also claimed responsibility on behalf of Hamas, but the calls were not followed up by the usual confirmations, including the release of the suicide bomber's name.

## Turkey insurers face major flood payouts

Reuters on Thursday.

"If the flood damages had not occurred, 1995 would have been a wonderful year for the sector," said Mr. Nomer, also chairman of Turkish Insurance and Reinsurance Companies Union.

Sahab Yavincilik Assabah is one of Turkey's leading media groups, suffered significant damages to its fully-insured facilities when a nearby stream overflowed.

The non-life insurance sector's last major payout was in 1975, when insurers paid \$25 million for 750 offices damaged in a huge fire in an Istanbul business centre.

"We will get the final figures after expert investigation are completed, particularly in Sabah (media) group which has a total risk coverage of two trillion lire (\$4.4 million)." Cahit Nomer, general manager of Milli Reasurans Company, told

The insurance sector in Turkey saw premiums jump by 100 per cent in the first half of 1995, after last year's drop in real terms of 10 per cent. April 1994 austerity package that followed a severe financial crisis.

## Letter from Ramallah

### Fake realities

By Nigel Parry

SINCE THE prisoners began their hunger strike, the centre of Ramallah, an appropriate off-used loca-

tion, has caught fire. It

started in the usual place,

the myriad of traffic islands

that litter the town centre,

a busy node where six roads

converge called the Manara.

A tower once rose

from the roundabout's

sculptured gardens until

bulldozed by the Israelis in

the 1980s to make way for

military vehicles. Now thick

smoke rises from the Manara,

a cry of the times from

the traffic islands stained

with the blackened rubber

and steel radicals left by

yesterday's burnt tyres.

Does he never get frus-

trated?

"I have to be optimistic,"

he said. "In the end, the

alternative is to give up.

And I'm not about to do

that."

everyone goes home, to re-

turn an hour later, of course, for a rerun.

More than anything, it is

my annoyance at the game

</

## After 5-year absence, Iraq still haunts world oil market

LONDON (R) — Five years on, Iraq's ban from world market after its invasion of Kuwait still has an unsettling influence on the oil price.

Many market analysts think prices are unlikely to make any sustained recovery until Iraq returns to the ranks of major world oil exporters.

Oil traders waking up on Aug. 2, 1990, to hear that Iraqi forces had crossed the border of fellow OPEC member Kuwait faced the loss of more than four million barrels per day (b/d) of world oil supplies from the two countries.

Prices soared to \$40 a barrel, a level not seen since the 1973 Arab oil embargo.

But markets quickly dropped from the fear-inspired highs when it was felt that Iraq posed little threat to oilfields in nearby Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil producer.

Kuwait, producing two million barrels a day or more, has long since returned to the world market.

But speculation over when the United Nations may lift sanctions to allow Iraq's return to the oil market has had

a bearish impact on prices, oil analysts and traders say.

The war ceasefire set terms under which a ban on Iraqi oil exports should be lifted when it meets U.N. demands on weapons.

"Iraq certainly acts as a long-term constraint on the oil price," said economist Geoff Pyne at finance house UBS in London. "You have to ask yourself where 2.5 million barrels a day of (Iraqi) oil is going to go."

Any oil price forecast has to allow for the Iraq factor. When will the U.N. embargo be lifted? how much will Baghdad be able to export? will OPEC handle the transition smoothly?

"Ever since the war ended, Iraqi oil has always been expected back in somewhere between six and 18 months' time," said an oil analyst in London. "It's been a constantly depressing factor."

Since the Gulf war ended in February 1991, benchmark North Sea Brent crude oil has moved in a broad range between \$13 and \$21 a barrel. Current prices are nearer the bottom of the band at \$16.

"There's little prospect of oil prices rising significantly until Iraqi oil is back on the market — the theory is that it can't go up until Iraq comes back," the oil analyst said.

"As soon as the green light is given for Iraqi exports, it will be weak for three to six months but you won't get a major recovery in oil prices until Iraqi oil is back," he added.

Traders say the spectre of renewed Iraqi exports constantly helps blunt any threat of supply shortages.

"Iraq hangs like a cloud over the market. There's no need to buy more oil than is needed for normal operational reasons if you don't think the price is going to rise," a refinery trader said.

Fast-rising supplies from non-members of the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in the past two years and OPEC's consequent impatience over its loss of market share to rival producers only serve to exacerbate the Iraqi factor.

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Kuwait oil, most members are now producing at capacity. Cutting back when Iraq returns is not an appealing prospect, particularly when non-OPEC members are soaking up all the extra world demand.

"OPEC finds more and more difficulty in reacting to any circumstances and for me, it's very hard to conceive how it would cope with the return of Iraq," says Mr. Pyne of UBS.

But the Iraqi invasion had one useful side-effect, market analysts say. The crisis was the first for adolescent oil futures markets. Many oil traders learnt an expensive lesson in a market which saw prices move as much as \$10 a barrel in a day.

"I think there has been a change of psychology in the futures market," Mr. Pyne said.

"Prices used to react to any news coming out. What people look for now is some actual threat to supply. They want to see the realistic possibility of a real fundamental change in the market before they react," he pointed out.

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Saudi Arabia's economy will likely rebound into positive growth in 1995 as oil prices overshoot their forecast level in the state budget and the private sector gained momentum, bankers said Tuesday.

The world's largest crude-oil producer and exporter has assumed an oil price of \$14 in its 1995 budget, but prices have so far exceeded that level by nearly \$3 because of unusual discipline by OPEC producers.

According to Britain's Barclay's Bank, the Saudi gross domestic product (GDP) was projected to grow by 1.5 per cent in real terms in 1995 and by more than two per cent in the following year if oil prices remained stable.

The study, published in the London-based Al Hayat newspaper Tuesday, cited improvement in oil prices, which it said boosted the kingdom's income by nearly \$2.3 billion above projections in the first five months of 1995.

It recalled a growth rate of as high as nine per cent in 1990, when crude prices shot over \$30 and Saudi Arabia had forecast a further decline in 1995 to \$119 billion but

boosted output by nearly three million barrels per day (b/d) to make up for a market loss of four million b/d caused by the halt in exports from Iraq and Kuwait during the Gulf war.

"Surely, there will be a positive growth rate in real terms this year. But how much the GDP will grow depends on the movement of oil prices in the second half," a Saudi banker told AFP by telephone from Riyadh.

Oil exports provide nearly 90 per cent of Saudi Arabia's income and weak prices have created deficits in its budget and balance of payments and sharply slowed down its economy after rocketing growth rates as last year due to a surge in its investment in the kingdom," he pointed out.

In its sixth five-year plan announced last month, Saudi Arabia set an annual growth target of 3.8 per cent but it did not give a breakdown for each year. The high rate was apparently based on better performance by the private sector.

Oil prices have averaged around \$17 this year and economists expect them to range between \$16 and \$17 by the end of 1995. This means they will be higher by one to \$1.5 above their 1994 level and more than \$2 above the price

forecast in the Saudi 1995 budget.

"Our projections early this year were that oil prices would be lower than in 1994. But their improvement changes the whole picture," a banker said.

"So far this year, prices have increased by more than 15 per cent and if they maintained their current level, then the economy would perform better. Another factor is that the private sector is expected to record similar growth rates as last year due to a surge in its investment in the kingdom," he pointed out.

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## Higher oil prices reviving Saudi economy in 1995

## Road to Riviera and Maastricht is paved with tax for French

PARIS (AFP) — The first day of August marks the main holiday month here, a time for the French to live up to their image, to eat and drink well, to flit on the beaches: to take the Riviera road!

This year, when the clock struck midnight, the taxman increased the cost of all these pleasures with a wave of his wand as part of a crisis plan to reduce the budget deficit and to begin to pay for past excesses in state spending.

The rate of sales tax on restaurants and wine, hotel bills, petrol, and on most goods such as new cars, was hiked from 18.6 to 20.6 per cent. This is an increase of two points or of 10.75 per cent in the rate of tax.

For the French or foreign family heading south to the sun, the price of a litre of super, unleaded petrol rose before dawn by 10 centimes to 5.75 francs (\$1.20).

In the area around Paris the price of public transport

was increased by 4.4 per cent on average.

The price of cigarettes was upped by about six per cent, and the average family will now pay 55 francs per year more than previously for electricity.

The tax on food remains at 5.5 per cent.

There are two main reasons for this sweep of the taxman's hand in the middle of the summer: A budget deficit which has defied constraint and the cost for deficits set by the Maastricht treaty for economic and political union in Europe.

The new conservative government installed following the election of Jacques Chirac as president in May lost little time in sounding the alarm about the state of the books left by the previous right-wing administration headed by Edouard Balladur. A budget deficit set to amount to 322 billion francs (\$67.5 billion instead of 275 billion francs as forecast.

The target set by Mr. Balladur was based on revenue of 47 billion francs for privatisation, which the new government under Alain Juppé is putting aside to reduce the national debt, or accumulated budget deficits of past years, in accordance with EU regulations, and to strengthen the capital of ailing state companies.

Mr. Juppé said that the true budget deficit would have been 371 billion francs this year, or 15 per cent more than the target set by Mr. Balladur.

Describing this as a "calamity," Mr. Juppé said in June that one factor was a shortfall of more than 15 billion francs in revenue. "How is this possible when the economy is growing at three per cent?" he enquired.

Expenditure had been understated to the extent of 38 billion francs, of which 11.7 billion was related to the cost of interest on the public debt.

In 1993, in the depths of recession, the budget deficit rose to 315 billion francs or 4.45 per cent of gross domestic product.

In 1994, with a contribution from growth, the deficit was reduced by 16.5 billion francs to 299.1 billion francs or 4.05 per cent of GDP.

The government has said that it will decide how much deficit to allow in the accounts for 1996 once it has a clear idea of what it must do to stay on course for targets set at Maastricht.

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But he said Russia lacks strict regulations for punishing violators, making prosecution difficult.

Mr. Shalenkov also criticised the privatisation process on the whole for not anticipating such violations.

"We need to establish a filter to block this proliferation of dirty money," Mr. Shalenkov told a news conference. He also called a recent law on a tougher criminal code, passed by the lower house of Russia's parliament,

Such crimes are illegally channeling trillions of roubles (billions of dollars) of what should be state money into private hands, warned Kuzma Shalenkov, deputy director of the interior ministry's department for economic

crimes.

"not strict enough."

Igor Belousov, head of the interior ministry's department for corruption in privatisation, said the low number of prosecuted cases is due to inadequate staff and the huge proliferation of such crimes.

He said 600 cases of bribery of state and other officials in connection with privatisation had been reported in the past year.

In one of the few cases under investigation, three top officials with a state export

firm were arrested for accepting more than \$100,000 in bribes for rent of space in federal buildings in Moscow.

Many, including Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, have called such crimes a threat to reforms, as budget revenues fall short.

**HOROSCOPE**

**FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2, 1995**

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Get your mind working on outside affairs concerned with career and civic matters, and forget picayune wishes.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) Focus on self-improvement today and forget any private worries. Make new allies of worth who can help your progress.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Keep busy at business matters and don't go after personal affairs which might be difficult to handle.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Outside partners will gladly go along with your ideas today, but don't endeavour to get backing from bigwigs.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 22) This is a good day to get your tasks completed efficiently and not go off on any impossible tangent. Be cooperative with a fellow associate.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Early today make the arrangements for a good time this evening, but don't be extravagant. Enjoy yourself with your loved ones.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Be more concerned with home affairs today and steer clear of outside contacts who are apt to be self-seeking.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) You are able to handle business and communication matters very well during the day today, but avoid such this evening.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Concentrate on how to make more money during the day so that you will not feel lack of enthusiasm.

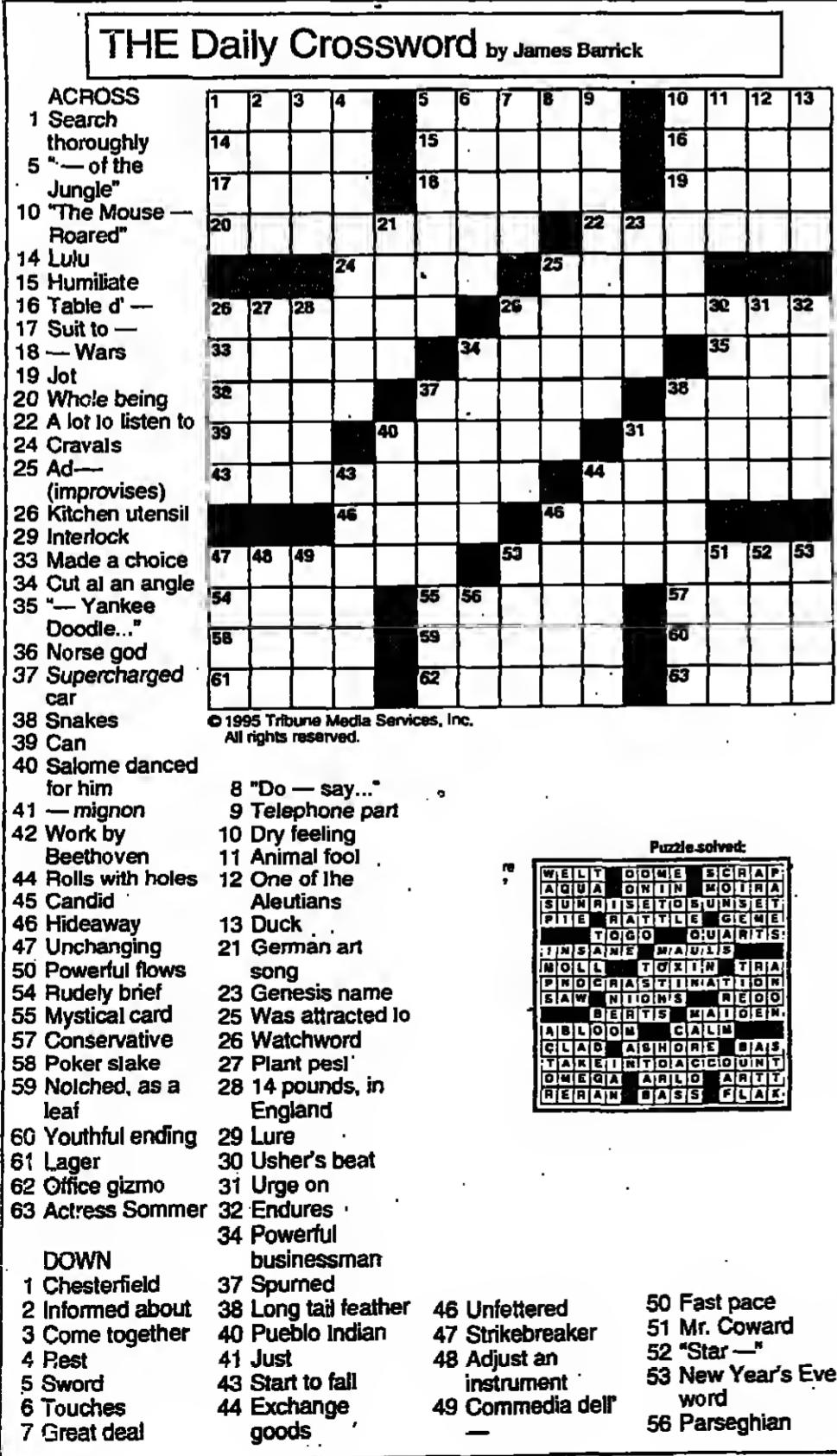
**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Go after personal aims and you have every opportunity to gain them. Steer clear of a disagreement at home this evening.

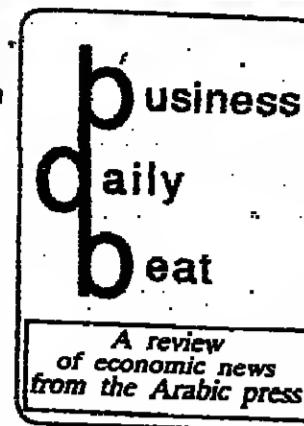
**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Use more practical methods for gaining your aims during the daytime today and be careful in motion, especially this evening.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) This is a good day today to gain your personal wishes by being practical and also fair with others, but try to economise this evening.

Birthstone of August: Peridot — Golden Quartz

### THE Daily Crossword by James Barrick





A review of economic news from the Arabic press

## Some old buildings at heart of Amman to be demolished

di Arabia, which is around 12 per cent of the world's total crude oil production, projected a budget of \$4 billion in 1994, and was financed by a Japanese power company, because exports were cut to around \$2.6 billion, while imports were forecast to rise from \$2.3 billion to \$2.4 billion.

Kingdom's actual oil

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Over the past

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were arrested for any

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oletnik Viktor Chern-

ov, who called such one

reforms, as well

as fall short.

## HOROSCOPE

RECAST FOR

TUESDAY, AUGUST

2, 1995

Thomas S. Page

Astrologer, Carter Page

for Jordan

DES: (March 21 to

April 19) Get your

working outside after

work with career

or financial

affairs, which

will be difficult to han-

ge.

URUS: (April 20 to

May 18) Focus on im-

provement today to

get any private as-

affairs, Make new alli-

ances with people who

can help you

achieve your

biggest wishes.

MINI: (May 21 to

June 19) Keep busi-

ness and don't let per-

sonal affairs which

will be difficult to han-

ge.

DON CHILDREN:

June 22 to July 20) If

a partner will stick

along with your

plan, but don't ex-

pect to get back in

bigwigs.

O: (July 22 to Aug-

ust 10) This is a good

day for your tasks to

be completed, and

any impossible at-

tempts will be a

success.

RE: (August 11 to

September 29) Make

the arrangements for a good time

today, but don't be a

rashgiant. Enjoy your

time with your loved ones.

RA: (September 30 to

October 28) Be more

open with home affa-

irs, and steer clear

of side contacts who

will be self-seeking.

ORPIO: (October 29 to

November 27) You

will be very

busy, but avoid so-

me evening.

GITTARIS: (Novem-

ber 28 to December

16) Concentrate on how

to get more money dur-

ing the day, and feel lack of en-

ergy.

PRICORN: (Decem-

ber 22 to January 16)

personal aims will

have every oppor-

tunity to gain them. Sie-

ze or a disagreement

will be the main issue this evening.

CARIUS: (January

17 to February 13) Use more

practical methods for

achieving your aims dur-

ing the day, and a

good night will be

helpful this evening.

ICES: (February 14

to March 20) This is a

good time to fulfil

personal wishes by be-

ing active and fairm-

ers, but try to end

the evening.

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Golden Chie-

## Tunnel under Suez Canal to fully reopen Oct. 6

CAIRO (AFP) -- Egypt will soon finish Japanese-financed repairs to a tunnel under the Suez Canal, which will reopen to full 24-hour service on Oct. 6, the official news agency MENA has reported.

The repairs to Ahmad Hamed tunnel, begun in 1992, cost \$62 million and were financed by a Japanese

company, which said the tunnel, named after an Egyptian general killed by Israel in the 1973 war, measures 1.64 kilometres in length and lies metres underwater, connecting the Sinai peninsula to the rest of Egypt.

Cairo has launched a major project for industrial and tourist development in Sinai, returned by Israel in 1982. It plans to attract some three million inhabitants to the region, currently home to 160,000 people, over the next 23 years.

The president of the Suez Canal company, Mohammad Ezzat Adel, quoted by MENA, said the construction of a bridge over the canal is vital to absorb increased traffic to and from the peninsula.

Mr. Adel ruled out building a second tunnel, saying it would impede future plans to deepen the canal. Egypt and Japan have begun studies for a bridge high enough to allow shipping to pass underneath.

LA VACHE Qui Rit triangular cheese made in France and weighing 280 grammes is to be sold to consumers for 780 francs. According to prices fixed by the Ministry of Supply, the carton weighing 400 grammes carries a JD 1.150 price tag (Al Raif).

TRANSPORT MINISTER Samir Kawar said in a reply to a query by a deputy that the Unified Company for Organising Land Transport was not a public sector company but a private shareholding limited company. He said it was turned to a public shareholding company to widen the investment base and enable clearing and transport companies to become shareholders. Another reason was to raise the capital of the company to JD 5 million, to enable it set up stations for assembling and servicing trucks at selected sites on the Kingdom's main roads (Al Dusour).

IN A REPLY to a deputy's query, Public Works and Housing Minister Abdul Razzaq Nasou said the ministry would be improving the Yajouz-Jubieha road and the Shafa Badran road to make it a four-lane highway, but the implementation would be done in stages depending on the financial allocations. He pointed out that bidders were invited to improve a 3-kilometre stretch of the road from Awajan junction and work would start after awarding the tender. Dr. Nasou added that, in cooperation with the Municipality of Greater Amman, the ministry was taking measures to improve the Yajouz-Shafa Badran/Applied Sciences University road, starting next month. He also said that a local consultant was conducting a study to choose an appropriate way to connect the Yajouz-Shafa Badran road with the Sukhne-Jerash road. The study is expected to be completed by May 1996 (Al Dusour).

JAPAN HAS agreed in principle to finance the project of repairing the Amman-Jerash-Irbid road damaged at different locations by landslides. A Japanese team, currently visiting Jordan, will submit a memorandum on the JD 3 million project to the Japanese government to obtain final approval before the start of the winter season.

Other projects to have Japanese financing are the Al Azraq road to the Iraqi border and the Irbid-Northern Shouneh road (Al Dusour).

THE PRIME minister issued strict instructions to all officials to expedite the maintenance and repair work at airports in preparation for the October Amman Economic Summit. According to the minister of transport, there is a comprehensive programme for repairs and upgrading the services at Queen Alia International Airport (QIAIA), Amman Civil Airport and Aqaba Airport. Maintenance of the QIAIA, and especially the runways, has been given top priority, according to the minister (Al Dusour).

LOS ANGELES (R) -- The Walt Disney Co said late Monday it will pay \$19 billion for Capital Cities/ABC Inc., surprising both Hollywood and Wall Street with a deal that creates the world's largest entertainment company.

In a stunning announcement, Walt Disney Chairman Michael Eisner said Capital Cities, owner of the ABC television and radio networks, will become a wholly owned unit of Disney.

"Think of all the things we can do together," Disney chairman and chief executive officer Michael Eisner told a news conference, laying out a scenario of Disney's cable channel combining with Capital Cities' ESPN sports channel to provide a service to be beamed into China and long relationship with the

grey for sports and entertainment.

"The merger positions us for substantial growth worldwide and puts us in a strong competitive position in an industry which, by this transaction, we are helping to define," he said.

News of the merger sent Capital Cities' stock soaring \$20.125 to \$116.25 on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) after earlier jumping \$24, or 25 per cent. Disney shares gained \$1.25 to \$58.625 in very heavy trading, also on the NYSE.

Disney has long coveted a network as a way to reach the mass market. While most observers had expected Disney to make a bid for CBS Inc., the deal with ABC is fitting in light of Disney's long relationship with the

two companies had combined annual revenues in 1991 of approximately \$16.5 billion.

The combined enterprise will be known as the Walt Disney company and be led by Mr. Eisner, who will con-

tinue as chairman and chief executive officer. Mr. Murphy will join Disney's board of directors.

The takeover, the biggest so far in 1995 and among the largest ever, comes less than 10 years after Capital Cities acquired ABC for \$3.5 billion.

Analysts say the announcement shows the importance networks will play in the converging entertainment world of television, film, computers

and interactive devices.

"The broadcast networks, despite all the news of their demise, continue to be the strongest platform for attracting mass audiences and as a result the strongest platform for attracting mass advertisers," said management consultant Michael Wolf of Booz, Allen and Hamilton.

Once regarded as a dying breed, networks are suddenly back in demand, with experts predicting all three major

U.S. networks could be in new hands before the end of next year.

According to industry sources, Westinghouse is close to buying CBS for around \$5 billion. Shares of CBS rose \$1.875 to \$77.625 after the Disney news. NBC, which is owned by General Electric Co. (G.E.) has been frequently mentioned as a possible merger candidate but has thus far remained with G.E.

## Walt Disney to buy Capital Cities/ABC for \$19b

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## Sex, drugs and money top the IAAF agenda

GOTHENBURG, Sweden (AFP) - Sexual politics, drug bans and prize money will top the agenda here this week, as Primo Nebiolo seeks a fifth mandate as president of the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF).

The sports supreme body, the IAAF council, is to be re-elected at a congress meeting on Wednesday and Thursday, the eve of the nine-day extravaganza of the world championships.

Nebiolo, who took over from Dutchman Adrien Paulein in 1981, has taken world athletics from relative poverty to a position of considerable wealth. The 1992-96 budget totalled \$120 million.

The championships which officially open on Friday are the fifth to be held since 1983, and they now rank third behind footballs World

Cup and the Olympic Games for its global TV audience.

Not surprisingly, the 72-year-old Italian who has engineered this transformation is standing unopposed.

For despite a limited amount of opposition led by Ollan Cassell, head of USA Track and Field, most regional officials are grateful for the way that Nebiolo has brought money into the sport.

Maurice Nicholas, honorary secretary of the Asian Amateur Athletic Association, said: "In the old days, I had to find my own funds. Now the IAAF gives us an administration grant running our office. With money we can do things."

Women are to be the next recipients of Nebiolo's generosity.

The men-only council is set to increase from 25 to 27 members, with the two extra

seats reserved for women.

Nebiolo, who has described the proposal as "historic", sees it as a way of ending sexual discrimination in athletics officialdom.

However, the idea has not been universally popular with the existing council.

Eight candidates are standing, including three Olympic champions — Romanian high-jumper Iolanda Balas, Polish sprinter Irena Szewinska and 1984 Olympic gold medallist Moroccan 400 metre hurdler Nawal Al Moutawakil.

Drugs will also be on the agenda, ostensibly to match the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in recommending that the current four-year ban for steroid-class drugs be reduced to a minimum of two years.

The IOC is keen to have a uniform punishment for drug abuse in sport, but is

also trying to avoid federations being hauled through the courts.

Legislation in some countries puts a two-year ceiling on suspensions, while a handful of athletes — such as German sprinter Karin Krabbe and American 400m world record holder Butch Reynolds — have challenged IAAF rulings in civil courts.

Not on the agenda, but almost certain to be discussed, will be British runner Diane Modahl. The 1990 Commonwealth 800m champion had a four-year ban overturned on appeal last week by the British Athletics Federation — a verdict which has not gone down well with the IAAF.

The IOC is keen to have a uniform punishment for drug abuse in sport, but is

els' decision" and had ordered a third test on Modahl's sample.

Modahl's defence in London had successfully argued that high levels of the male hormone testosterone could have been caused by the unrefrigerated storage of her sample at a laboratory in Lisbon (see separate story).

However, the meeting will not be complete without talk of money.

At the Stuttgart World Championships in 1993, winning athletes were rewarded with Mercedes-Benz cars instead of cash. However, their managers insisted that things would be different in Gothenburg.

They're not. Gold medalists will again be handed the keys to a gleaming German saloon, but the push now is to finalise cash prizes for the 1997 World Championships in Athens.

## IAAF under fire over Modahl decision

LONDON (AFP) - British athletic chiefs on Tuesday criticised the IAAF, the world governing body, for its decision to take the Diane Modahl drugs case to arbitration.

The IAAF decided on the move at Monday's council meeting in Gothenburg which considered her successful appeal against a four-year drugs ban.

But British Athletic Federation (BAF) spokesman Tony Ward said on Tuesday his federation would tell the IAAF that the evidence given by Modahl's team raised enough doubts about the original conviction to reverse the guilty verdict.

Modahl herself said she fears she may not get a fair hearing by the IAAF panel and called for a "summit" meeting of top scientists from both sides to discuss

the ramifications of her case. We believe that the evidence that was brought before our appeal panel raised sufficient doubt for us to clear Diane. That is what we will be going to the arbitration panel of the IAAF to say," Ward told BBC radio.

I think we regret very much that they didn't wait to read the transcript of the whole hearing and gain the evidence that was put before that appeal panel before they made their decision," he added.

The dispute puts the British federation on collision course with the IAAF, but Ward continued: "It is not the first time we have been into a head-to-head with the IAAF.

We did it last September when we decided to keep our women's team in the IAAF World Cup in London

because Diane had not, up to that time, had a hearing.

We are quite used to being head-to-head with the IAAF. I think that what the IAAF has failed to realise is that it was a very good panel.

I don't think they are just picking on us but many other federations tend to fall into line with whatever the IAAF wants to do.

We in Britain have always wanted to see in all these cases is that justice is done and justice is seen to be done for the athlete in question," he added.

The IAAF will now request a new analysis of the residual of Modahl's original urine sample, still retained by a Lisbon laboratory.

Modahl wants the IAAF to reconsider the decision to call her to an arbitration.

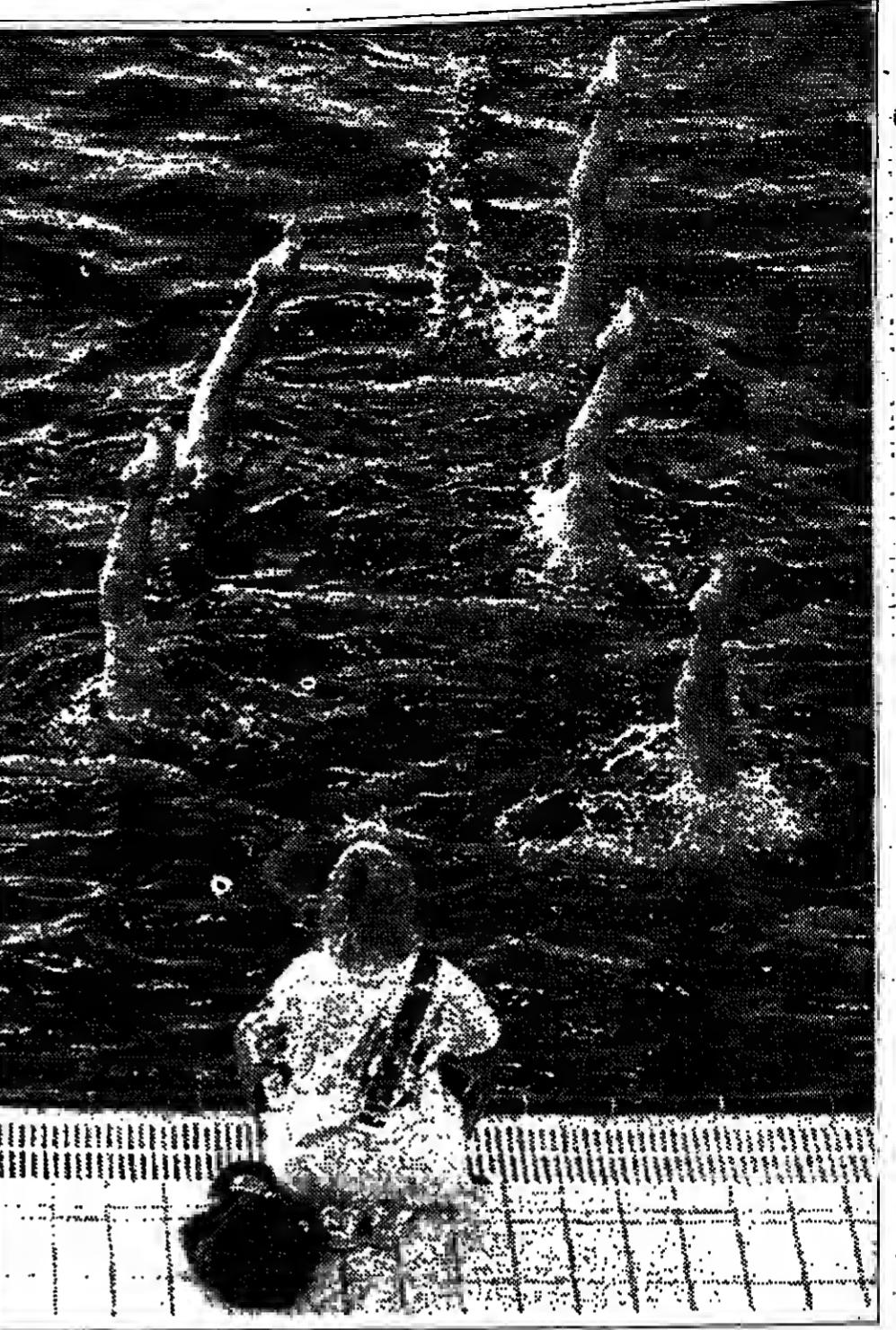
the athlete fears that she will not receive a fair hearing from the world governing body.

She declared: "We know that bad storage can lead to urine samples becoming heavily infected and generally contaminated.

We also know that what happens in heavily contaminated samples can actually create the very banned substance for which the scientists are testing. That is what happened in my case and must never happen again," she added.

The 1990 Commonwealth 800m champion also wants a summit meeting of top scientists to debate the issues raised by her case.

We will know more about the extent of the risk only if all these high-powered scientists get together, not in an adversarial setting such as before an arbitration panel, but in an atmosphere of scientific collaboration," she said.



### Russian team exercising

The coach for the Russian synchronized swimming team works the team through drills July 31 at the Georgia Tech Aquatic Centre, site for the Centennial Olympic Games' aquatic venue. It will be the first Olympic venue to be opened, on August 1. The \$17 million Aquatic Centre is part of nearly \$500 million in ACOG construction projects (Reuters photo)

## Chinese police accused of inciting spectator violence at soccer match

BEIJING (AFP) - The Chinese Football Association has started an inquiry into crowd troubles when police were said to have incited fans to violence during a match in the Shandong province capital, a report said Tuesday.

During the first half of the Chinese FA Cup semi-final between Jinan Taishan and Beijing Guo'an last weekend, Jinan fans began throwing bottles, cans, nails and bricks at opposing supporters, the Beijing Youth Daily said.

The Jinan fans were watched by police who called to them to throw harder, the paper charged.

"We couldn't understand

why the police didn't stop it at once. They even shouted to the Jinan fans to throw higher and harder," said a journalist present at the match.

One Beijing-Guo'an supporter between the beards after being hit by a bag of ice.

After the match, 200 Beijing fans following their club to an away game for the first time, were refused police protection when they returned to their buses, the paper said.

Violence has erupted at past matches between Chinese and foreign teams, but this was the first reported case at a domestic game.

International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) General Secretary Iván Gyulai

## IAAF ready to probe controversial record

GOTHENBURG, Sweden (R) - International Athletic chiefs are ready to study controversial video pictures before ratifying Cuban Iván Pedroso's world record breaking long jump at last Saturday's Sestriere athletics meeting.

Doubts have been cast over the official wind reading for the leap when Pedroso appeared to take advantage of a rare lull in gusting wind in the Italian ski resort to achieve his record jump of 8.96 metres.

Some spectators said they saw a man standing in front of the wind measuring machine alongside the track just before the 22-year-old Pedroso set off down the runway.

But video taken by an amateur cameraman alongside the track clearly shows someone in a blue jacket standing very near to the machine. German Television pictures, broadcast on Saturday, also showed a figure in a blue anorak at the scene.

## Christie never tested at home

LONDON (R) - Olympic and world 100 metres champion Linford Christie has admitted he has never faced a random dope test at home because the British Sports Council does not have his address.

A television programme broadcast on Monday said members of the British Athletic Federation have Christie's address but have not passed it on to the sports council who conduct the tests.

"The fact that the sports council didn't know where I lived is very concerning for me but, you know, it still doesn't alter the fact that I'm tested a very large proportion of the time," Christie said on the programme.

## Diego Maradonna says he would never set foot in U.S. 'Daughters to miss meeting Mickey Mouse'

BUENOS AIRES (AFP) - Argentinian footballing tragedy Diego Maradona said here on Tuesday that he would never again set foot in the United States, and therefore his daughters would miss meeting Mickey Mouse on a trip to Disneyworld, after he was only given an eight day visa instead of the 10 year visas his Boca Juniors teammates received.

The world's most fascinating if controversial footballing figure said: "They

refused to grant me a proper visa because I admire and like Fidel Castro and I believe that Che Guevara is the greatest person of all time."

Maradona has not enjoyed good relations with the American authorities since being testing positive in a dope test at last year's World Cup for which he is still serving a suspension and would not have been able to play in the friendly tournament in New York.

The former Napoli player

said he was subjected to: "a humiliating and discriminatory questionnaire," at the American consulate in Buenos Aires.

The two time World Cup finalist, who is still idolised in Argentina, said: "They asked me the most extraordinary questions. Such as did I still take or sell drugs. I don't think the Americans for example are that pure and clean."

Maradona, who will earn about \$8 million over two years at Boca, showed flash-

## Connors downs Borg in Mentadent tourney

DEARBORN, Michigan (AP) - Jimmy Connors rallied to beat Björn Borg 6-4, 6-4 on Monday in the final of the Mentadent Champions.

Connors, who earned \$40,000 in the \$150,000 tournament, has won 13 of 15 events on the 35-and-over tour since it began in 1993 and has beaten Borg eight straight times.

"I started hitting the ball sooner and deeper, his game dropped just a little in the third set and I took advantage of it," Connors said. "I haven't seen anyone play like Borg in a long time."

Borg led 4-2 in the third set.

"It was my match to win, and it was just a matter of one point tonight," Borg said. "Pointwise, I lost, but to me I won tonight."

**Jordan Times**  
Tel. 667171

**CINEMA TEL: 634144**  
**PHILADELPHIA**  
presents  
**Jurassic Park**  
Directed by Steven Spielberg  
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

**CINEMA TEL: 699238**  
**PLAZA**  
Kamal Shinnawi & Ilham Shahin in  
**Easy to Get**  
(Arabic)  
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5:00, 8:30, 10:30

**CINEMA TEL: 677420**  
**CONCORD**  
CONCORD "1"  
Ahmad Zaki, Layla Alwy and Mahmoud Hamedeh  
**The Third Man**  
(Arabic)  
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30  
**CONCORD "2"**  
Only you  
Shows: 3:30, 5:30

**AMMUN THEATRE**  
TEL: 618274 - 618275  
**MUSA HIJAZIN**  
"sumaa"  
IN  
**Hi Citizen**  
daily at 8:30 pm  
written & directed by  
Mohammed Shawaqfeh

**Nabil & Hisham Theatre**  
TEL: 675571  
Presents  
**KABARET**  
Abeer Issa  
**Ghassan Mashini**  
with Amer Khamash, Khalil Jahmani, Mohammad Hussain and Issam Al Hanbali  
The theatre closes on Monday  
Performances start at 8:30 p.m.

**ANLAN THEATRE**  
presents  
**(Ahlan Tatbee')**  
Welcome  
**Normalisation**  
Shows start at 8:30 p.m.  
For reservation please call tel. 625155 Amman

## Police beat Corinthians' players after game

SAO PAULO, Brazil (AP) — On the field, the battle with Palmeiras ended in a draw. Off the field, Corinthians took a beating.

State police with clubs beat Corinthians players as they boarded the team bus after Sunday's 1-1 tie in the opening game of the Sao Paulo state championship.

The main victim was all-star midfielder Ze Elias, considered a likely starter on Brazil's Olympic team. He was severely beaten on the left elbow and taken to a

hospital.

Although X-rays showed no fracture, a cast was put on his arm.

Team doctors listed his condition as doubtful for the deciding game next Sunday.

The violence reportedly started after a fan swore at a Corinthian player as the team boarded the bus and a reserve player, Ezequiel, stepped out of the bus and went after the fan. The police held him and the other Corinthian players back, and gave Ze Elias a beating in the

melee.

One policeman pulled a gun and said "I'll shoot, I'll shoot," Ze Elias said in a televised interview.

"Another took his club and hit me five or six times on the arm."

TV footage showed

Corinthians forward Viola, a member of Brazil's 1994 World Cup champions, lunging out of the team bus to attack police, and teammates struggling to restrain him.

The team filed a criminal assault complaint against the policeman who

allegedly hit Ze Elias. The complaint only named that officer.

"The police officer said he was a Palmeiras fan," Jose Munsur Farah, president of the Corinthians Club, told the daily Folha de Sao Paulo.

The game was held in Ribeirao Preto, a farming city about 200 miles (320 kilometers) north of Sao Paulo. The site was chosen so the game could be televised live to Sao Paulo and because the city's largest stadiums were closed for repairs.

Corinthians players complained that the refereeing was partial and favored Palmeiras, the defending national and state champion.

Palmeiras scored the tying goal four minutes into injury time.

Corinthians holds an advantage in the final series because of its superior record in the regular season. The team can win the title next Sunday with a tie in regulation time and another tie in the 30-minute overtime period.

## Sampson to coach U.S. National team

PRINCETON, New Jersey (AP) — Steve Sampson, who led the U.S. national soccer team to a string of unexpected successes this summer as interim coach, will get the full-time job.

Sampson, who has been running the team since April following the ouster of Bora Milutinovic, will be officially appointed Wednesday at a news conference at Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey.

Sampson was told by U.S. Soccer President Alan Rothenberg last Friday the position was his.

"If this is the result of some successful results, all the better," Sampson said Monday from the hotel where the team is training for this weekend's Parma Cup. "I've been given an opportunity now and I'm going to continue to do my best."

U.S. Soccer initially wanted a coach with an extensive international resume. But Sampson's direction in leading the Americans to the U.S. Cup '94 title and a startling fourth-place finish in the America cup seems to have brought a change in thinking.

"We had wanted someone with a lot of international experience, but Steve is learning on the job and will continue to learn," U.S. Soccer Executive Director Hank Steinbrenner told USA Today. "He's proved his worth. He's proved that he can coach the national team."



Michael Schumacher

## Schumacher decides to put off wedding

COLOGNE, Germany (AP) — Formula One champion Michael Schumacher postponed his wedding Tuesday after a newspaper got wind of it and swarms of reporters began arriving in the racer's home town, a spokesman said.

The spokesman for the town of Kerpen, near Cologne, told the Associated Press that the 26-year-old Schumacher's marriage with Corinna Betsch, 27, scheduled for the Kerpen city hall at 11 a.m., would take place unannounced later.

The church ceremony will occur Saturday at a chapel in the Petersberg Guest House near Bonn, which is usually used to house state visitors. The road to the hilltop hotel will be sealed off Friday night.

Women's national team back from Asian championship  
Salati chosen among top 5 players

By Aleen Bannayan  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanian women's national basketball team returned home early Tuesday morning after taking part in the 16th Asian Basketball Championship for Women, which was held in the Japanese City of Shizuoka from July 24-30.

Taking part in the competition for the first time, the Kingdom's team finished fifth in Level B which also included teams from Hong Kong, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines. Level A included China, Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.

While the team was warmly welcomed for their first participation by the organizers and other delegations, Jordan's players and officials were delighted when the team's top scorer, Jumana Salati, was chosen among the top five Asian players in Level B and received her award from the mayor of Shizuoka together with two players from Thailand (Malwan Lekla and Somtawit Benarlee) and one each from Hong Kong (Ho Ching) and Malaysian (Chin Fong).

Salati was Jordan's top scorer and rebounder, averaging 16.8 points per game (see table).

Three-time winners and defending champions China won the Level A title after a 94-69 win over South Korea, while Japan came in third after a 68-65 win over Taiwan.

Thailand won the Level B title and will play in Level A in the 1997 championship which is expected to be held in Hong Kong.

China's 204-cm tall giant Zheng Haixia was chosen the tournament's most valuable player as she also got awards for top rebounder and was named on the tournament's Level A "dream team" together with teammate Xin Li, Korea's Chung Soon, Taiwan's Wei Chien and Japan's Chikako Murakami.

China's Xin Li was chosen the tournament's top scorer, Japan's Takako Kato top defensive player, China's Zongqing Ma top free-throw shooter, Korea's Chun top three point shooter and teammate Chun Sook.

The only Arab team in the 12-nation tournament, Jordan finished fifth in the top assist.

The only Arab team in the

12-nation tournament, Jordan finished fifth in the



Jordan's Jumana Salati goes through Indonesia's defense in the national team's last match in the tournament. Salati was chosen one of Asia's top five players

Level B tournament after defeating Indonesia 58-55 79-41 The Philippines-Jordan

Malaysia-Jordan 82-38

Thailand-Jordan 71-42

Other results came as follows:

Thailand 71-42

Malaysia 82-38

Hong Kong 65-45

Indonesia 58-55

Japan 68-65

South Korea 69-44

China 94-69

Thailand 68-65

Indonesia 58-55

Malaysia 82-38

Hong Kong 65-45

Thailand 71-42

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South Korea 69-44

China 94-69

Thailand 68-65

Indonesia 58-55

Malaysia 82-38

Hong Kong 65-45

Thailand 71-42

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Indonesia 58-55

Japan 68-65

South Korea 69-44

China 94-69

Thailand 68-65

Indonesia 58-55

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Japan 68-65

South Korea 69-44

China 94-69

Thailand 68-65

Indonesia 58-55

Malaysia 82-38

Hong Kong 65-45

Thailand 71-42

Other results came as follows:

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## Russian, Chechen commanders call rebels to disarm

GROZNY, Russia (R) — The Russian military chief in Chechnya and the rebel commander met on Tuesday in the regional capital Grozny at the head of a newly-formed joint commission to call separatist fighters to lay down their arms.

The commission — the first body in which separatist rebels and Moscow officials would act as a team — has been formed to oversee the implementation of a breakthrough military agreement they had reached on Sunday.

A Chechen spokesman said rebel military chief Anatoly Maskhadov and Russian military commander in the region Anatoly Romanov asked separatist fighters to disarm.

The appeal said those who surrendered their arms voluntarily would not be punished for participation in fighting against Russian forces during the bloody seven-month conflict.

"We appeal to the field commanders to do all they can to prevent provocations... which could cause major trouble," the spokesman quoted the appeal as saying.

Disarming the rebels is part of Sunday's deal under which Russia promised to withdraw most of the troops sent in last December to quell Chechnya's three-year independence bid.

Russia would keep only two brigades in Chechnya — one from the army and another from the interior

ministry forces.

The Chechen spokesman quoted Mr. Maskhadov as saying that they had agreed with Mr. Romanov to order their forces to stop fighting.

Interfax news agency said Mr. Maskhadov had told his forces earlier on Tuesday to cease fire from midnight (2000 GMT). There were no reports of a similar order by Mr. Romanov.

In the meantime clashes between troops and rebels continued across Chechnya.

Interfax said on Tuesday two Russian servicemen had been killed and five others wounded in the past 24 hours.

"They are trying to penetrate Grozny and other settlements and open fire from populated areas to provoke return fire," a Russian military official in Chechnya told Interfax.

Russian troops had been instructed to fire back only in extreme circumstances, he said.

TASS quoted a senior Russian official as saying most rebel field commanders wanted to stick to the terms of the deal.

But some commanders close to rebel leader Dzhokhar Dudayev, who is sticking by his 1991 declaration of independence for Chechnya, were planning to seize power by force, he said.

Gen. Dudayev has poured scorn on the agreement reached in Grozny after more than seven months of fighting, a deal which leaves open

key political issues such as Chechnya's future status and Gen. Dudayev's own role in the region.

Mr. Maskhadov toned down Gen. Dudayev's remarks, made in an interview with U.S. State Department-funded Liberty radio on Monday.

"The (Dudayev) made his comments in an apparent agitation," the Chechen spokesman quoted Mr. Maskhadov as saying on Tuesday.

"We discussed the agreement with the president yesterday (on Monday). In principle he does not oppose it apart from several minor points," Mr. Maskhadov said.

In another step to implement Sunday's deal Mr. Maskhadov on Tuesday ordered an exchange of maps locating military units and weaponry to be destroyed and announced a reward of up to 300,000 roubles (\$68) for every rifle handed in.

Russian forces would have to draw back from areas where Chechen weaponry was given up and self-defence units would be set up and allowed to hold some weapons as long as they cooperated with the Russians.

Russians and Chechens military leaders exchanged lists of prisoners-of-war on Tuesday but said they were incomplete so an exchange of prisoners, due to have begun on Monday, would probably not start until Thursday.



Israeli police battle settlers for the second day running at Beit El near Ramallah in the occupied West Bank where

the settlers intended to set a new Jewish colony (see story page 1) (AFP photo)

## Court delays hearing of Abu Zeid's appeal

CAIRO (AFP) — An Egyptian court delayed Tuesday a hearing on a Cairo university lecturer's request for a stay of execution on a judgement ordering him to divorce his wife on grounds of heresy, legal sources said.

The decision marked the third time that hearings on an appeal for a stay of execution have been postponed because of procedural reasons since a court on June 15 issued the unprecedented ruling against Nasser Hamed Abu Zeid.

The appeals, made by Dr. Abu Zeid or close associates, are aimed at preventing Muslim extremists from demanding

that policy carry out the order for him to divorce.

An appeals court ruling in June said that Dr. Abu Zeid's writings on religion "attack" and "incited disrespect" for Islam and ordered his divorce from his wife on the grounds that a Muslim woman cannot be married to an apostate.

Islamic extremists filed the suit demanding the forced divorce.

By Egyptian law, the plaintiffs can use the ruling to ask police to forcibly remove his wife Yunis from her home or raise a morals case against

her for living with a man outside marriage.

In their appeal for a stay of execution, Dr. Abu Zeid's wife said the ruling "threatened their lives because by declaring her husband an apostate, they have given a weapon to those who do not know him but want to kill him."

The couple has also requested a hearing with the final appeals court, arguing that the lower court did not have the authority to judge someone an "apostate," but no date has been set, a legal source said.

Dr. Abu Zeid and his wife are currently on vacation outside Egypt, according to sources close to them who would not say what country they were in.

In its ruling, the court said Dr. Abu Zeid wrote that Islamic laws giving women half the inheritance of men were unjust in an age when women work and contribute to household earnings.

The cases bring on the sharia law principle of "hisba" (accounting), which allows any Muslim to take to court an offender against Islam even if he is not directly harmed by the offence.

## Iraq condemns U.S. mediation between Kurdish factions

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq condemned Tuesday plans for U.S.-mediated talks aimed at ending the fighting between Kurdish factions in northern Iraq, calling the move "interference in its internal affairs."

The official newspaper Al Iraq, published by Kurds loyal to the government in Baghdad, said that "meeting between U.S. State Department officials and rival Kurdish factions, or their invitation to Washington, were against the people's rights and choice, as defined by the United Nations Charter."

The two main feuding Kurdish factions in northern Iraq have accepted a U.S. plan for peace talks next week in Lisbon, Kurdish officials said Monday.

The Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), which have controlled northern Iraq in defiance of Baghdad since the end of the 1991 Gulf War, are locked in a bitter struggle for power and over tax revenue.

More than 2,000 people have been killed since the fighting erupted in May 1994, according to Kurdish sources.

Al Iraq said "America's irrational methods were largely responsible for the fighting" between the KDP and the PUK, which has "destroyed the economy and social fabric of the region, in the absence of a state authority."

The paper warned of "the danger of American policies

on regional security," and said that "continuing interference by Washington in Iraq's domestic affairs and its support of rival Kurdish factions will expose the region to dangers of incalculable consequences."

The U.S.-mediated meeting is scheduled for August 9 through August 11 in the Portuguese capital, and would be the first between the two sides' political bureaus in seven months.

A three-month ceasefire ran out between the Kurdish factions July 15, but renewed clashes which flared on July 9, mainly around the town of Arbil, have left more than 200 people dead, according to U.N. and foreign aid workers.

Meanwhile the Russian Foreign Minister, Andrei Kozyrev, will defend his country's policy toward Iraq when he arrives here Wednesday on the fifth anniversary of the invasion of Kuwait, diplomats said Tuesday.

A western diplomat added that Mr. Kozyrev will also have to defend Russia's policy toward Bosnia, which the Arabs complain is biased toward the Serbs.

"Arab countries, including Kuwait, are astonished at Russia's position," which rejects any use of force to settle the conflict, he added.

On Tuesday the United Arab Emirates protested to Russia over Bosnia and warned it risked losing Arab and Muslim friends.

## 20,000 Kurds stage march in Berlin

BERLIN (AP) — Chanting "freedom for Kurdistan," around 20,000 Kurds marched through Berlin Tuesday behind the coffin of a woman who died during a hunger strike in solidarity with Kurds imprisoned in Turkey.

Heightened Kurdish militancy brought warnings from politicians against violence spilling into Germany from the conflict in Turkey. A Berlin conservative, Heinz Lümer of the Christian Democratic Union Party, said Germany could become a "multi-conflict society" if immigration isn't reduced.

Leftist Daniel Cohn-Bendit, the Frankfurt city adviser on multi-cultural affairs, said he sympathised with the Kurdish struggle in Turkey but he also blamed Kurdish militants for at least part of a wave of fire-bombings of Turkish businesses in Germany.

They are protesting Turkey's military campaign against Kurds striving for independence, and they demand that the United Nations and Red Cross representatives be sent to ensure that the Turkish army respects the Geneva Convention.

About 1,500 Kurds demonstrated Tuesday at the United Nations building in Geneva, Switzerland, and in Athens, Greece, about 200 Kurds demonstrated outside the German embassy.

Germany's federal prosecutors, meanwhile, announced an indictment against a 24-year-old Turkish Kurd, identified only as Mehmetirin O., who is accused of membership of a terrorist organisation.

Berlin police, with some 2,000 officers on the streets, appeared to avoid conflicts with the large crowd that

marched from the Kreuzberg district to the centre of western Berlin behind the hearse carrying the coffin of Gulnaz Baghishani. No incidents were reported.

Mrs. Baghishani, 44, a native of Iraq, died of heart failure last Thursday during a demonstration after fasting for eight days. The mother of five daughters is to be buried Wednesday in Osnabrück, the western German city where she lived.

About 60 hunger-strikers were in the protest march, the weaker ones in a bus.

The Berlin hunger strike, in its 13th day, was in solidarity with some 5,000 Kurdish prisoners fasting for 19 days in Turkey. One of those died last week.

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## Writers urge clemency for ex-Black Panther

PARIS (AP) — A writers group that includes Salman Rushdie and Taslima Nasreen called Tuesday for a review of the trial of an ex-member of the Black Panthers, facing execution for the slaying of a white police officer.

Mumia Abu-Jamal faces execution by lethal injection on August 17 at 10:00 p.m. local time (0200 GMT) in New York, led by writer William Styron, and in Montreal.

Mr. Abu-Jamal, a former journalist and ex-member of the militant Black Panthers movement, was condemned to death in 1982 after being convicted of murder on Dec. 9, 1981. On Oct. 1, 1990, the U.S. Supreme Court refused to review the sentence.

Human rights groups have organised demonstrations supporting Mr. Abu-Jamal in the 500 writers who asked the governor of Pennsylvania to delay the execution.

They are also calling for a review of the trial, which has been questioned by human rights activists.

In addition to Mr. Rushdie, the 500 writers include Ms. Nasreen, who took refuge in Sweden after being threatened with blasphemy charges in her native Bangladesh, and French writers Pierre Bourdieu and Jean-François Lyotard.

Christian Salom, the general secretary of the group, denounced the "iniquity" of the Abu-Jamal's trial, its "anti-constitutional" character and alleged that witnesses had been pressured

to change their story. He compared Mr. Abu-Jamal's conviction to the Dreyfus affair which shook France at the beginning of the century. At that time, the young Captain Dreyfus, a Jew, was unjustly accused of high treason.

Also Tuesday, demonstrations supporting Mr. Abu-Jamal took place in New York, led by writer William Styron, and in Montreal.

Mr. Abu-Jamal, a former journalist and ex-member of the militant Black Panthers movement, was condemned to death in 1982 after being convicted of murder on Dec. 9, 1981. On Oct. 1, 1990, the U.S. Supreme Court refused to review the sentence.

Human rights groups have organised demonstrations supporting Mr. Abu-Jamal in the 500 writers who asked the governor of Pennsylvania to delay the execution.

In Europe, demonstrations have been called over the next few days in Paris, Brussels, Bologna in Italy and Copenhagen.

In Canada, there will be demonstrations in Toronto on Aug. 7 and in Montreal on Aug. 8.

A caravan will leave San Francisco on Saturday to cross the United States and join the demonstrations in Philadelphia.

## Column 8

### Yeltsin to stay in sanatorium this week

MOSCOW (R) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin is recovering normally from a heart problem, feeling cheerful and working hard, but will probably remain in a sanatorium until the end of this week, ITAR-TASS news agency said Tuesday. "The president's recovery is going well," TASS said. The agency quoted Mr. Yeltsin's press service as saying no working meetings were planned for Tuesday, but that the president was getting ready for meetings later in the week.

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WASHINGTON (R) — President Bill Clinton marked the fifth anniversary of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait by telling Congress that the United States would not be involved in economic sanctions against Iraq.

Clinton: It remains a

Algerian president visits in M

OXFORD (R) — Prime Minister Tony Blair arrived in Mali on a regional security mission ahead of a summit in Algiers on Friday. Blair announced plans to meet officials in Mali in the peace efforts to Saharan region.

Algeria, Mali, Mauritania, Senegal, and Niger, who are expected to attend.

1 dead in car bomb

ALGIERS (R) — A person was killed when a car exploded in the south of the Algerian capital on Wednesday. The latest in a series of attacks in recent days, it was the 15th overnight.

Tuaregs rebels, who have been fighting for independence in the south of the country, claimed responsibility for the attack.

Christian Salom, the general secretary of the group, denounced the "iniquity" of the Abu-Jamal's trial, its "anti-constitutional" character and alleged that witnesses had been pressured

to change their story. He compared Mr. Abu-Jamal's conviction to the Dreyfus affair which shook France at the beginning of the century. At that time, the young Captain Dreyfus, a Jew, was unjustly accused of high treason.

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MOSCOW (R) — The Senate voted 94-2 to withhold \$10 million of United Nations funding until Congress gets the names of "deadbeat diplomats" at the U.N. who are not paying their bills. A report by U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali has said that diplomats and missions posted to the world body have run up debts of more than \$1.8 billion to banks, landlords, hotels, utility companies and merchants in New York City, according to the Washington Times newspaper. Senate Republican leader Bob Dole told the Senate the story showed an outrageous example of lack of accountability of the United Nations. Sen. Dole said he supported an amendment to a State Department bill offered by Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Jesse Helms, Republican of North Carolina, which would require the secretary of state to identify the "deadbeat diplomats."

CAIRO (AP) — A court in Cairo on Wednesday sentenced two men to death for the killing of a U.S. citizen in 1989. After years of legal proceedings, the court found the two men guilty of killing the U.S. citizen and sentenced them to death.

Cairo: It remains a

## Election results in Japan have no bearing on Amman-Tokyo ties

From P.V. Vivekanand in Tokyo

THE CLOUDS in the political scene here, after recent parliamentary elections, would have no bearing on Tokyo's ties with Mideastern countries, least of all Jordan with which successive Japanese governments have fostered a strong relationship since the early 70s, according to Japanese politicians and diplomats.

If anything, they say, Tokyo-Amman relations are being strengthened, particularly after the May 22-28 "Jordan Week" in Japan attended